

SENATE RESOLUTION 28

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor the memory of Vonelle Lewis Baker of Jackson.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly were greatly saddened to learn of the passing of Vonelle Lewis Baker; and

WHEREAS, Vonelle Baker was an exemplary public servant and consummate professional who worked assiduously to improve the quality of life for her fellow citizens in numerous capacities; and

WHEREAS, born on November 28, 1938, to James Bedford and Idell Woods Lewis, Mrs. Baker attended Jackson State Community College and was a graduate of West Tennessee Business College and McCollum and Ross Beauty School; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker served with acumen and alacrity in the banking industry, where she earned the respect of her peers and superiors alike for the exemplary quality of her work; and

WHEREAS, she was employed briefly by Union Planters Bank Memphis before working in the offices of Brown Shoe Company and later as a bookkeeper for First National Bank; in 1968, she became one of the first employees of Citizens State Bank in Parsons, working as a teller and bookkeeper before becoming a cashier, in which position she remained until her retirement; and

WHEREAS, baptized as a member of Bible Grove Baptist Church, Vonelle Baker was an active and devout member of the Calvary Baptist Church, which she served faithfully for many years before relocating to Jackson, where she became a member of Englewood Baptist Church; and

WHEREAS, Vonelle Baker was also deeply devoted to her family, and she always endeavored to remain true to family values of the highest order; and

WHEREAS, Mrs. Baker enjoyed the loving companionship of her husband of over forty years, Thomas D. Baker, who preceded her in death, and she was the proud mother of Katrina Nell Baker (Pat) Carrington and Lance Alworth (Sherry) Baker; and

WHEREAS, in addition to her children, she is survived by her grandchildren, Ellen Carrington (Cole) Shelton, Bradford Lee (Rebekah) Carrington, Amber Sharee Baker, William Addison Baker, Maegan Grace Baker, and Katelyn Belle Baker; her great-granddaughter, Willa Lei Shelton; her brother, McArthur Lewis; and a host of extended family and close friends; and

WHEREAS, Vonelle Baker leaves behind an indelible legacy of integrity and probity in public life, compassion and loyalty in private life, and diligence and dedication in all her chosen endeavors; and

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should pause to remember the bountiful life of this exceptional public servant and human being; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED ELEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we honor the memory of Vonelle Lewis Baker, reflecting fondly upon her impeccable character and her stalwart commitment to living the examined life with courage and conviction.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we express our sympathy and offer our condolences to the family of Mrs. Baker.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.